

City of Freeport
Budget Workshop
6:00 p.m./Council Chambers/Freeport City Hall
June 11, 2019 Minutes

I. Meeting Called to Order

The June 11, 2019 Freeport City Council Budget Workshop was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Russ Barley. The meeting was held in City Council Chambers of Freeport City Hall.

Council Members present: Mayor Russ Barley, Councilwoman Elizabeth Brannon, Councilman Eddie Farris, Councilwoman Amanda Green, Councilwoman Elizabeth Haffner and Councilman William "Boots" McCormick

II. Staff present: Planning Director Latilda Hughes-Neel, Water Supervisor Larry Tuggle, Sewer Supervisor Robert Fawcett, Finance Officer Sara Bowers, City Attorney Clay Adkinson, Utility Billing Manager Debbie Roberts, Clerk Assistant Lori Cox.

II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was given by Councilwoman Haffner, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

III. 2019/2020 Budget

Mayor Barley turned the meeting over to the City Finance Officer Sara Bowers. Finance Officer Bowers presented the following 2019/2020 Budget information.

- Staff recommended Billing Department to no longer fall under the Water Department, but rather have its own budget. The consensus was it would be a beneficial decision.
- Sewer Projects
 - New Sewer Plant
 - US 331 Wastewater Utility Upgrades Phase I – SRF Loan/Grant
 - Lafayette to North Jackson Sewer Forcemain Upgrade
 - West Bay Loop Sewer Forcemain Upgrade
 - US 331 N. Sewer Expansion
 - Sewer Optimization Study
 - Commercial Rate Study for Sewer Rates
- Water Projects
 - East Bay Loop Water Main Upgrade
 - Design Water Improvements on US 331 SRF Loan/Grant
 - Repair concrete footer on the elevated storage tank in Portland.
 - Ground Water Modeling for Northwest Florida Water Management permit.
 - US 331 N. Water Improvements for new development (Owls Head to Riverwalk)
 - Elevated storage tank maintenance, DEP compliance.
 - Staff to make recommendation to add charges to inspect connections to city water system for new construction, meters properly located, and irrigation systems are not connected to water meters.
 - Preliminary plans for a future ground storage tank at Wagon Wheel well site.
 - Commercial Rate Study for water rates.
- Parks
 - 4-Mile Creek Boat Ramp

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- Barrier Free Park road improvements.
- Streets
 - Road Improvement at Highway 20/Barrier Free Park.
 - Beautification Grant (Highway 20 landscaping)
 - Staff currently estimating costs of city street maintenance.
 - Box culverts at Bear Creek Bridge.
 - Improvements at Great Hammock Bay Bend.
 - Resurfacing Washington Street.
 - Blue Ridge Parkway improvements.
- Administration
 - Security glass for Billing Department and Receptionist.
 - Councilman McCormick discussed additional city security enhancements.

City Attorney Adkinson informed Council that the City now has a defunct Fire Impact Fee account that is greater than 7 years old. Money could be used to safety related purposes.

Council discussion ensued in regards US 331N. water improvements for new development (Owls Head to Riverwalk). More information will be needed from Engineering. (An email was received by Engineering post Budget Workshop stating that no improvements are necessary from SR. 20 to 331B. Water system in the area is not continuous but water mains are sized to handle development and terminate near the proposed development projects.)

Council and staff discussion ensued regarding box culverts at Bear Creek Bridge not being a responsibility of the city due to it being a county road. Additional information on appropriations will be needed.

Mayor Barley discussed Christmas lights for light poles and adding 4 foot to the existing Christmas tree. Councilman Farris discussed allocating \$4-5 thousand per year for purchasing Christmas decorations to spruce up the city.

Councilwoman Brannon expressed concern with lack of lighting at intersections. Council and staff discussion ensued about county requirements. More information will be needed.

Councilwoman Green mentioned possibly putting money in the budget for the city's new marketing trademark that is currently in progress.

Staff and Council discussion ensued on possible timeframes for next budget meeting.

Attorney Adkinson suggested Council to consider adding funding for special consulting or lobbying services related to Enterprise Florida or Triumph projects. Adkinson informed Council that large amounts of funding are available and could possibly be used for large city projects like roadway improvements and lighting. Council welcomed Adkinson's idea.

Councilwoman Brannon asked Planning Director Neel how county communication was going on streets and roads and noted it would be a huge part of the budget process for streets.

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IV. Adjournment

Mayor Barley adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

CITY OF FREEPORT


Mayor

ATTEST


Clerk Assistant